

FACT SHEET

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) STANDARDS

- The previous standards for head, face, eye and foot protection were adopted from the 1971 ANSI standards. These standards are outdated and do not reflect current technology and improvements in PPE.
- The final rule is a revision that updates the standards to be more consistent with the latest editions of the ANSI standards.
- The final rule provides guidance for the selection and use of PPE, as well as performance-oriented requirements, where appropriate.
- The standards also contain some new requirements. Employers will now have to perform a hazard assessment of the workplace to determine if any hazards are present that would necessitate the need for PPE. Based on this assessment, the employer would then select the appropriate PPE for the hazards that were found.
- Employers will also have to provide PPE training to employees.
- The new rule contains a section addressing hand protection. This fills a gap in employee protection, since the prior standards had no requirement for hand protection.
- The proposal was published in August of 1989. Hearings were held in Washington, D.C. on April 3-4, 1990. The rulemaking record contains 173 comments, 577 pages of testimony, and 53 exhibits.
- The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on April 6, 1994. It becomes effective on July 5, 1994.
- The new standards will cover 1.1 million work establishments and 11.7 million employees.
- It is estimated that compliance with the new provisions of the final rule will cost \$52.4 million annually, and will prevent 4 fatalities and 712,000 lost-workdays annually.